

# **KENTUCKY DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION**

## **STAFF NOTE**

### **Action/Consent Item:**

*New District Facility Plans:* Clark and Hancock County School Districts

### **Applicable Statute or Regulation:**

KRS 157.420 (4), KRS 157.622, KRS 157.620, 702 KAR 4:180

### **Action Question:**

Should the Kentucky Board of Education (KBE) approve the proposed District Facility Plans (DFP) for the above listed Kentucky school districts?

### **History/Background:**

***Existing Policy.*** In accordance with 702 KAR 4:180, each district must develop a local DFP at the completion of a four-year cycle or at the completion of an eight-year cycle (maximum) if the district applies for and is granted a waiver. This process provides a District Facility Plan that contains an assessment of the school district's attributes and operations including the district profile, demographic information, facility conditions, and finances (cost of delivery of services). Local school districts are required to select a Local Planning Committee (LPC) to develop a District Facility Plan (DFP) outlining capital construction priorities.

Information reviewed in developing the DFP provides the LPC with a comprehensive view of program and facility needs required to provide an equitable educational opportunity. KDE staff presents the process to be undertaken by the district in an orientation session. Information for review is then developed by the LPC and its consultants.

The LPC, by virtue of its makeup, encourages both community involvement and diversity of ideas. The LPC recommends a DFP to the local board. If the local board does not approve the DFP, it goes back to the LPC for further refinement. However, the DFP submitted to the Kentucky Department of Education (KDE) is the final decision of the local board of education and may or may not reflect the determinations of the LPC.

The submitted DFP for Hancock County was recommended by the LPC and approved by the local board of education in June of 2011. At that time, 40 Plans were submitted to be considered by the state board. In the week prior to the submission deadline, the district made a change to renovate and add onto the existing high school rather than replace it with a new school as was noted on the original submission. KDE staff did not make the change and submitted to the state board the DFP that was originally submitted to KDE, not the plan that is being submitted at this time.

For Clark County, the submitted DFP was recommended by the LPC and approved by the local board of education.

The nonresident student information for both districts is attached along with enrollment data.

**Staff Recommendation(s) and Rationale:**

Staff recommends that the KBE approve the proposed new District Facility Plans for Clark and Hancock County School Districts. KDE staff certifies that the plans presented are in accordance with 702 KAR 4:180 and are in compliance with the appropriate steps as follows: (1) LPC selection process documented; (2) review of proposed district facility plan for educational programs and curriculum, demographics, facility evaluations, adequacy of financial plan, and adequacy of square footage; (3) public forum notification through news media; (4) local public hearing conducted with appointed hearing officer; and (5) plan submitted for KBE approval.

**Impact on Getting to Proficiency**

In Standard 4 of the Standards and Indicators for School Improvement, it is noted that the school's physical environment has an impact on student achievement. Research also indicates that better facilities enhance equity (equal opportunities for all students), attitudes and retention of staff, and parental involvement.

**Groups Consulted and Brief Summary of Responses**

Public forums and a local public hearing were held in the school districts. The plans were approved by the required bodies by majority vote.

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Commissioner of Education

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